

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a product, the method comprising:
  - (a) receiving at a computer a license string that controls access to the product, the license string being generated using a cryptographic process by encoding data that includes date information corresponding to at least one of:
    - a date of creation of the product;
    - a date of a request for the product; and
    - a date of generation of the license string;
  - (b) verifying the license string using a processor including by:
    - decoding the license string to identify the date information; and
    - determining that the date information is within a valid range; and
  - (c) allowing access to the product based on verifying the license string;wherein the data encoded to generate the license string comprises a license data and a validation data and verifying the license string further includes (i) decoding the license string to obtain the license data and the validation data, (ii) computing a generated validation data based at least in part on at least a portion of the decoded license data, and (iii) comparing the decoded validation data with the generated validation data.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a dialog box, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the dialog box.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an entry field, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the entry field.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding information using block ciphers.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as a character text string.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as an upper case alphanumeric string excluding capital O, capital I, and numbers 0 and 1.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string includes a first checksum, and verifying the license string comprises generating a second checksum based on the date information and comparing the second checksum with the first checksum.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a single facility.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a plurality of facilities.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein before the license string is verified, access to the product is allowed for only a predetermined period of time ~~in the absence of verifying the license string~~.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein allowing access to the product comprises allowing access to the product beyond the predetermined period of time if the license string is verified.
- 15 – 57 (Cancelled)
58. (New) A system for controlling access to a product, the system comprising:
  - (a) a communication interface configured to receive a license string that controls access to the product, the license string being generated using a cryptographic process by encoding data that includes date information corresponding to at least one of:
    - a date of creation of the product,
    - a date of request for the product, and

a date of generation of the license string; and

(b) a processor configured to verify the license string including by:

decoding the license string to identify the date information, and

determining that the date information is within a valid range;

wherein access to the product is allowed based on the verification of the license string, and the data encoded to generate the license string comprises a license data and a validation data, and the processor is further configured to verify the license string including by (i) decoding the license string to obtain the license data and the validation data, (ii) computing a generated validation data based at least in part on at least a portion of the decoded license data, and (iii) comparing the decoded validation data with the generated validation data.

59. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the communication interface is configured to receive the license string via a dialog box.

60. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the communication interface is configured to receive the license string via an entry field.

61. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding information using block ciphers.

62. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as a character text string.

63. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as an upper case alphanumeric string excluding capital O, capital I, and numbers 0 and 1.

64. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the license string includes a first checksum, and the processor is further configured to verify the license string including by generating a second checksum based on the date information and comparing the second checksum with the first checksum.

65. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the license string controls access to a single facility.

66. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein the license string controls access to a plurality of facilities.

67. (New) The system of claim 58 wherein before the license string is verified, access to the product is allowed for only a predetermined period of time.

68. (New) The system of claim 67 wherein access to the product is allowed beyond the predetermined period of time if the license string is verified.

69. (New) A computer program product for controlling access to a product, the computer program product being embodied in a tangible computer readable storage medium and comprising computer instructions for:

(a) receiving at a computer a license string that controls access to the product, the license string being generated using a cryptographic process by encoding data that includes date information corresponding to at least one of:

a date of creation of the product;  
a date of a request for the product; and  
a date of generation of the license string;

(b) verifying the license string using a processor including by:  
decoding the license string to identify the date information; and  
determining that the date information is within a valid range; and

(c) allowing access to the product based on verifying the license string;

wherein the data encoded to generate the license string comprises a license data and a validation data and verifying the license string further includes (i) decoding the license string to obtain the license data and the validation data, (ii) computing a generated validation data based at least in part on at least a portion of the decoded license data, and (iii) comparing the decoded validation data with the generated validation data.

70. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 further comprising providing a dialog box, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the dialog box.

71. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 further comprising providing an entry field, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the entry field.

72. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding information using block ciphers.
73. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as a character text string.
74. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as an upper case alphanumeric string excluding capital O, capital I, and numbers 0 and 1.
75. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the license string includes a first checksum, and verifying the license string comprises generating a second checksum based on the date information and comparing the second checksum with the first checksum.
76. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the license string controls access to a single facility.
77. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein the license string controls access to a plurality of facilities.
78. (New) The computer program product of claim 69 wherein before the license string is verified, access to the product is allowed for only a predetermined period of time.
79. (New) The computer program product of claim 78 wherein allowing access to the product comprises allowing access to the product beyond the predetermined period of time if the license string is verified.